

Reduce the Influence of Unpledged Delegates

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3 **WHEREAS** free and fair elections, and grass roots decision-making, are vital
4 components of a representative democracy;

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6 **WHEREAS** each presidential primary election and precinct caucus results in pledged
7 delegates selected in proportion to the votes tallied for each candidate, ensuring a fair
8 distribution of delegates;

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10 **WHEREAS** the practice of selecting elected officials and other party leaders and
11 activists as unpledged delegates (also called superdelegates) to the Democratic Party's
12 national convention was begun in the 1980s by party leaders to enable them to influence
13 the choice of presidential nominee to ensure that an electable candidate is chosen and
14 protect the long term interests of the Democratic Party, as they view them;

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16 **WHEREAS** Appendix B of the Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention
17 specifies that the number of pledged delegates is 3512 (80.53%), the number of
18 unpledged delegates is 849 (19.47%), totaling 4361 delegates; and

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20 **WHEREAS** unpledged delegates wield an undue influence on the Party's choice of
21 presidential nominee, and may cause the nomination of a candidate who received less
22 popular votes than another candidate, thus reversing the will of the people expressed
23 through their primary elections and caucuses, violating the democratic principle that
24 every person's vote should count equally and potentially causing some voters to be so
25 angry and discouraged that they choose either to not vote in the general election or to
26 vote for a Republican or third party candidate, which could result in a Republican
27 victory;

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29 **THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party Central
30 Committee and Party Chair should call upon the Democratic National Committee to
31 reduce the influence of unpledged delegates by amending any and all rules governing
32 unpledged delegates for future conventions to limit the number of unpledged delegates
33 to 10% of the total of all elected delegates, or to limit the total value of all unpledged
34 delegates votes to 10% of the total votes of elected delegates, or restrict unpledged
35 delegates status to U.S. Senators, Representatives and State Governors serving at the
36 time of the convention.

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39 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
40 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/2/2008)

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42 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
43 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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45 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
46 2008 meeting in Spokane.